



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2000

No. 96

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 24, 2000, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2000

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father of all the families of the earth, this coming Sunday we celebrate Parents' Day. We pray that this special day, established by Congress and signed into law by the President, will be a day to recall America to a new commitment to the family.

We ask You to bless parents as they live out their high calling. Help them to learn from the way You parent all of us as Your children. You have shown us Your faithfulness, righteousness, and truthfulness. You never leave nor forsake us; You respond to our wants with what is ultimately best for our real needs. You love us so much that You press us to become all that You intended.

As parents, we commit ourselves to moral purity, absolute honesty, and consistent integrity. Make us dependable people in whom children can experience tough love and tender acceptance along with a bracing challenge to excellence and responsibility. May our example of patriotism raise up a new generation of Americans who love You and their country.

Be with parents when they grow weary or become discouraged or feel they have failed. Be their comfort and courage. Remind them that they are partners with You in the launching of children into the adventure of living for Your glory and by Your grace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. L. CHAFEE). The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the conference report to accompany the marriage penalty reconciliation bill. There will be 30 minutes for closing remarks, with a vote to occur on adoption of the conference report at approximately 9:30 a.m. As previously announced, this will be the only vote today. Following the disposition of the marriage penalty conference report, the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill. Amendments are expected and Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to offer their amendments.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4810, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A conference report to accompany H.R. 4810, an act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 30 minutes equally divided for debate.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. President, the provisions in this bill will help 45 million families, and that is substantially every family in the U.S. Some of my colleagues have argued that almost half of those families do not deserve any tax relief. I reject that. I reject it because in my home state of Delaware it would mean leaving over 30,000 families that contributed to our ever-growing budget surplus out of family tax relief. They contributed to the surplus and they should benefit from the surplus.

Today's bill amounts to less than 5 percent of the total budget surplus over the next 5 years. That is less than a nickel on the dollar of our total budget surplus. It amounts to just 9 percent of the total non-Social Security surplus over the next 5 years. That is less than a dime on the dollar of the non-Social Security surplus. A nickel and a dime—by any comparison or estimation, this marriage tax relief is fiscally responsible. Those who dispute

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S7409